

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Cooks Creek and Blacks Run in the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Both streams were originally listed as impaired in the 1996 303d Report. Both streams were listed for violations of the water quality standard for bacteria and the general aquatic life (benthic) standard. TMDLs for bacteria were developed to address the bacterial impairments in both streams. TMDLs for sediment in Blacks Run and for sediment and phosphorus in Cooks Creek were developed to address the benthic impairments. These TMDLs were approved by EPA on June 5, 2002 and are available on DEQ's website at http://gisweb.deq.virginia.gov/tmdlapp/tmdl_report_search.cfm.

§62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

Public participation is critical to the implementation planning process. DEQ and DCR will hold a first public meeting on **November 23, 2004 at 7:00 pm** to inform the public of the IP development and to solicit participation. The meeting will be held at John Wayland Elementary School, 801 North Main Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812. Following the first informational meeting, DCR will arrange a steering committee and working groups of interested stakeholders to direct the process and provide input to the Agencies.

The public comment period for this first public meeting will end on December 23, 2004. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Mark Hollberg, DCR, (540) 332-9235 or Robert Brent, DEQ, (540) 574-7848. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Robert Brent, Department of Environmental Quality, 4411 Early Road, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, telephone (540) 574-7848, fax (540) 574-7878, or e-mail rbrent@deq.virginia.gov.